

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report 19 April 2012

Top Stories

- Two years of testing found a critical defect in a certain model of emergency air packs used in U.S. coal mines. However, federal regulators have no immediate plans to remove the more than 70,000 air packs that could remain in use. *Associated Press* (See item 3)
- After 3 years on the run, a former banker surrendered. He is accused of running a Ponzi scheme that stole more than \$75 million from investors. WRAL 5 Raleigh (See item 14)
- An outbreak of Salmonella Bareilly infection has now sickened at least 141 people in 20 states and Washington, D.C. It has also led to the recall of all frozen, raw yellowfin tuna product distributed by a California company. Food Safety News (See item 21)
- A power failure April 15 in Northbrook, Illinois, interrupted water service, caused 10 water mains to burst, and buckled streets throughout the town. *Northbrook Star* (See item <u>31</u>)
- The Virginia Department of Forestry said they suspect a 4,000-acre wildfire in Page County, Virginia, was started by an arsonist or arsonists who may have set 20 other fires in 1 day. *WTVR 6 Richmond* (See item **51**)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: <u>Physical</u>: LOW, <u>Cyber</u>: LOW Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - [http://www.esisac.com]

1. April 18, Bloomberg – (National) EPA will delay start of some U.S. fracking rules, **API says.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules for gas drilling will delay a requirement to capture air pollution at the well until 2015, the research director of the American Petroleum Institute said April 18. A delay in implementing some standards for new gas wells was a top demand of the group, which represents companies that drill for oil and gas. The EPA, which was scheduled to issue the rules April 18, rejected a bid by the group to exempt a number of wells from the requirements altogether, the research director said. The EPA proposed the rule in 2011 to focus on hydraulic fracturing in which millions of gallons of chemically treated water are forced underground to break up rock and free gas. The method has opened up vast new shale gas deposits and helped push natural gas prices to the lowest level in a decade. The original EPA draft would have put the rule into effect in about 60 days. The EPA rules will include incentives aimed at prodding drillers to use technology called green completions, which collects gas when a well is first tapped, according to the policy director for the climate and clean-air program at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-18/epa-will-delay-start-of-u-s-fracking-rules-until-2015-api-says.html

2. April 18, Rockford Rock River Times – (Illinois) IEPA names gas source of contamination site. Sources of the benzene that contributed to the contaminated well water in Rockford, Illinois, were identified by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), Rockford Rock River Times reported April 18. The IEPA is a report away from wrapping up its part in locating leaking underground gasoline storage tanks that include both the Citgo and Mobil gas stations west of Johnston Avenue on Auburn Street that the IEPA says were sources of the leaking of benzene and other toxins. The investigative team began testing well water in the area October 2011, while residents began complaining about foul water in July 2011. An investigator with IEPA said the two gas stations, with older underground tanks on the premises, may not be the only leaking tanks at fault. The investigation will be handed off to the federal government for its inclusion in the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program. The gas station owners and the federal government will then work together on the clean up of any leaking tanks.

Source: http://rockrivertimes.com/2012/04/18/iepa-names-gas-source-of-contamination-site/

3. April 18, Associated Press – (National) NIOSH, MSHA discussing what to do with 70,000 potentially defective air packs in US coal mines. Two years of testing found a critical defect in a certain model of emergency breathing devices used in U.S. coal mines, but federal regulators have no immediate plans to remove the more than 70,000

air packs that could remain in use, the Associated Press reported April 18. The SR-100 self-contained self-rescuers are belt-worn air packs about the size of three cake-mix boxes. They hold chemicals that help recycle exhaled breath, giving miners about an hour of oxygen and, ideally, time to seek refuge or escape from a fire or explosion. The Charleston Gazette said the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) issued a report the week of April 16 concluding the model manufactured by CSE Corp. of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, failed too many tests and therefore has a critical flaw. The NIOSH says 5 out of 500 randomly sampled SR-100 units had oxygen starters that failed. Under federal rules, no more than 3 in 500 can fail for the NIOSH to remain confident. The failure rate, the report said, means the units "no longer conform to the minimum requirements for the certification." CSE's president said the firm voluntarily stopped production of the SR-100 when internal quality-control teams identified problems. It has since redesigned the starter system and replaced the device with the SRLD model.

Source:

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/d9039a9762de45b093ae14fc89ec8517/WV--Mine-Safety-Air-Packs/

4. April 17, Detroit News – (Michigan) 6K still without power in Metro

Detroit. Electricity was restored to about 100,000 customers who lost power when high winds ripped through Detroit April 16. As of April 17, DTE Energy Co. reported 6,000 still were without electricity. Those included 2,000 in Oakland County, 2,500 in Wayne County, and 500 in Macomb County, officials said. The power outage also forced the closing of Parker, Farwell, Vernor, and the small schools at Osborn High School April 17, according to the Detroit Public Schools system. Winds gusting to 55 miles per hour left an estimated 217,000 without electrical service April 16, including 106,000 DTE customers and 111,000 CMS Energy customers.

Source: http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120417/METRO/204170373/1361/6K-still-without-power-in-Metro-Detroit

5. April 17, Associated Press – (Washington) Oil spill readiness drill in Wash.'s Padilla Bay. The Washington Department of Ecology tested oil spill readiness during a drill in Padilla Bay near Anacortes, Washington, April 17. A department spokesman said companies that work with the Washington State Maritime Cooperative were practicing oil spill response and protection of sensitive areas. The cooperative provides oil spill contingency plan coverage for 1,200 large commercial vessels that move through the Puget Sound, Grays Harbor, and the Washington coast. The vessels include cargo ships, fish processors, and passenger ships. The drill was designed to test the effectiveness of those plans and the spill contractors' ability to carry it out. NRC Environmental Services is the private spill response contractor hired by the cooperative and provided the equipment for the drill.

Source: http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-04/D9U6POQO0.htm

For another story, see item <u>31</u>

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Chemical Industry Sector

- 6. April 17, WHNS 21 Greenville (South Carolina) Trailer containing caustic chemicals stolen in Belton. A trailer containing chemicals that can be dangerous was stolen in Belton, South Carolina, WHNS 21 Greenville reported April 17. The theft happened between April 7 and April 12 at the Anderson Jockey Lot and Farmers' Market. Deputies said the 53-foot-long, enclosed trailer contained about 1,000 pounds of sodium hydroxide, which is commonly referred to as lye. They said the chemical, which is used as a drain cleaner, can burn the skin, cause breathing problems, and irritate the eyes. The trailer, which has the number 139 painted on the side, also contained 26 parking lot lights and 2 kitchen ranges, according to deputies. Source: http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/17517808/trailer-containing-caustic-chemcials-stolen-in-anderson-co
- 7. April 17, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Rhode Island) Providence facility faces EPA penalty for hazardous waste violations. The owner and operator of a hazardous waste management facility in Providence, Rhode Island, face an U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) penalty of up to \$37,500 per violation per day for 16 federal and state hazardous waste law violations, the agency announced April 17. The complaint said Northland Environmental and PSC Environmental Services (operator and owner of the facility, respectively) violated laws and state permits to operate a commercial hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste treatment, storage, and transfer facility. The facility is located in a densely populated Environmental Justice (EJ) area. EPA considers it an EJ area due to the high proportion of minority and lowincome population. The most significant violations were the firms failed to properly determine that some wastes shipped off site as non-hazardous wastes, were in fact, hazardous. This resulted in hazardous wastes being disposed of at facilities not designed or permitted to handle them. In addition, Northland and PSC failed to properly list all hazardous waste constituents on required notification and shipping documents. Moreover, many incompatible hazardous wastes were stored next to one another without adequate means of separation or protection, potentially resulting in fires or explosions. PSC owns, and Northland operates the facility, which accepts and handles acids, alkalis, flammable wastes, water reactive wastes, cyanides, sulfides, oxidizers, toxic wastes, oily wastes, photochemical wastes, and laboratory packs.

 $\underline{http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/628347eb17b9fdcb852579e300644d4b?OpenDocument}$

For another story, see item 2

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

8. *April 18, University of Memphis Daily Helmsman* – (Tennessee) **Radioactive device found on campus.** A radioactive device was extracted from a scrap metal dumpster on

the campus of the University of Memphis, in Memphis, Tennessee, April 12. The Daily Helmsman reported April 18 that radioactivity in the dumpster was first detected April 5 by monitors at Sims Metal Management, where a truck took the bin to dispose of the waste. Monitors initially detected radiation levels that were 35 percent above normal background radiation. The material was found to be of "very low" radiation levels, and a tarp was put on the bin to prevent the spread of contamination. April 12, the tarp was removed and three men in HAZMAT suits entered the dumpster. They found the source of radiation to be a metal door apparatus that they then securely removed. The university's radiation safety officer said the door equipment was installed before regulations restricted companies from using naturally occurring radioactive materials in the construction of their hardware. The apparatus was being held in a secured location until it could be removed from the campus in a cost-effective manner.

Source: http://www.dailyhelmsman.com/news/radioactive-device-found-on-campus-1.2852159#.T47Ew9ksxQo

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

Nothing to report

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. April 18, Bangor Daily News – (Maine; Massachusetts; Rhode Island) Federal prosecutor seeks \$153,000 cash seized from Chinese buffets in Maine. Federal prosecutors asked a judge to order the owners of 11 Chinese restaurants in 3 New England states to forfeit more than \$153,000 seized from bank accounts in Maine. A complaint filed April 16 alleged a family organization skimmed nearly \$2.9 million in cash transactions from the businesses in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island over a 10-month period. The family also hired and housed undocumented workers whom they paid in cash without withholding taxes, according to the complaint. The family owns Twin Super Buffet in Brewer, the New China Super Buffet in Lewiston, the Super China Buffet in Waterville, and the Kon Asian Bistro in Portland, Maine. It also owns five restaurants in Massachusetts, and two in Rhode Island. Eight family members were named in the complaint. In November 2011, the U.S. attorney's office claimed the \$153,000 seized in 2011 from seven bank accounts in Maine was earned illegally in violation of the following laws: transportation of illegal aliens; harboring of illegal aliens; conspiracy to violate the immigration laws; hiring at least 10

undocumented aliens during one 12-month period; conspiracy to defraud the United States and to violate its laws; money laundering and conspiracy to commit money laundering; and engaging in monetary transactions in criminally derived property in amounts greater than \$10,000.

Source: http://bangordailynews.com/2012/04/17/news/portland/federal-prosecutor-seeks-153000-cash-seized-from-chinese-buffets-in-maine/?ref=mostReadBoxNews

10. April 18, Help Net Security – (National) New York top city for online fraud activity. New York is the nation's epicenter for online fraudsters, followed by Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Omaha, Nebraska, respectively, Help Net Security reported April 18. Leveraging a sample of nearly 1 billion transactions performed by select U.S.-based e-commerce merchants, ThreatMetrix reviewed the online activity for the first quarter of 2012, scoring each transaction with a fraud risk of low, medium, or high. High-risk transactions are typically rejected automatically by merchants while medium-risk ones tend to result in manual review. The top 150 U.S. cities were then ranked based on their percent of high- and medium-risk transactions. "New York was ranked No. 1 in e-commerce fraud risk with transactions 1.5 times as likely to be at risk in comparison to second-ranked Atlanta, and twice as likely in comparison to No. 3 Chicago," the chief products officer with ThreatMetrix said.

Source: http://www.net-

security.org/secworld.php?id=12766&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+HelpNetSecurity+(Help+Net+Security)&utm_content=Google+R_eader_http://www.net-

security.org/secworld.php?id=12766&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=fe-###

11. April 18, Allentown Morning Call – (Pennsylvania; New Jersey) FBI: 'Silent bandit' wanted for five area bank robberies. A man labeled by the FBI as the "silent bandit" is wanted for robbing 5 Allentown, Pennsylvania-area banks in the past 2 weeks, authorities said. The most recent robbery happened April 17 at a QNB Bank inside a Giant Food Market store in Richland Township, said a FBI news release. In that robbery, police said the man passed a "threatening note" to the teller. After receiving an undisclosed amount of cash, he fled. In each of the robberies, police said the suspect passed a threatening note to tellers at banks located inside grocery stores. The spree appears to have begun April 3 at the KNBT Bank in a Giant Foot Market in Bethlehem. In that case, police scanner reports said the man passed a note to the teller demanding cash and said two other people in the store were armed. He did not show a weapon. Other hold-ups connected to the suspect include April 4 at the PNC Bank inside a Shop Rite Grocery in Marlton, New Jersey; April 11 at the PNC Bank inside a Shop Rite Grocery in Warminster, Pennsylvania; and April 14 at a PNC Bank inside a Shop Rite Grocery in Hopewell, New Jersey.

Source: http://www.mcall.com/news/breaking/mc-quakertown-fbi-silent-bank-robber-20120418,0,6745606.story

12. *April 17, New York 1* – (New York) **'White Glove Bandit' said to have robbed fourth Manhattan bank.** The so-called "white glove bandit" struck again, allegedly robbing his fourth bank in the New York City borough of Manhattan since January. Police said the man seen in the surveillance video robbed a HSBC Bank branch April

17. Investigators said he showed a gun to the teller and demanded cash. They also believe he robbed the same branch January 26 and also hit a Citibank branch twice. He wears white latex gloves during the robberies. He carries a black revolver and is usually seen with a backpack and all black clothing.

Source: http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/top_stories/159596/-white-glove-bandit-said-to-have-robbed-fourth-manhattan-bank

13. April 17, New York Times – (National) Web site stole job seekers' data in tax-fraud scheme. A Web site that promised to connect people with much-needed jobs during the recession was actually a means to steal applicants' personal information in a scheme to file fraudulent tax returns, prosecutors said April 17. The site, called jobcentral2, listed nonexistent jobs and used applicants' identities to file the bogus federal tax returns and collect tax refunds, the district attorney (DA) for the Manhattan borough of New York City said. A Russian citizen living in Brooklyn preyed upon unemployed people because they were unlikely to have income and unlikely to file a tax return, reducing the chances the fake returns would draw attention, the DA said. The man's site claimed its job placement services were "sponsored by the government and intended for people with low income," prosecutors said. He sent e-mails with links to his fake site through legitimate job search forums and college electronic mailing lists. He collected refunds in the names of 108 job seekers, an indictment said. The amount collected on each was about \$3,500 to \$6,500, which totaled more than \$450,000. The man recruited 11 students from Kazakhstan, who let him use their bank accounts to cash the tax refunds, court documents said. He was charged with money laundering, identity theft, and other charges. Federal prosecutors in New Jersey, meanwhile, charged the same man April 17 with working with a ring that stole \$1 million by hacking into retail brokerage accounts at Scottrade, E*Trade, Fidelity, Schwab, and other firms and executing sham trades. He was charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, unauthorized access to computers, and securities fraud.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/18/nyregion/web-site-stole-job-seekers-data-in-tax-fraud-scheme.html

14. *April 17, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina; California) **Fugitive Raleigh banker surrenders in alleged Ponzi scheme.** After 3 years on the run, a former Raleigh, North Carolina banker surrendered April 16 to federal authorities in San Francisco on charges he ran a Ponzi scheme that bilked investors out of more than \$75 million. He was indicted in March on 12 counts of mail fraud, 3 counts of wire fraud, and 1 count each of money laundering and conspiracy to commit fraud. The banker operated Millennium Bank from a west Raleigh office. He billed it as a unit of a Swiss bank based on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, but federal authorities allege it was a front for a Ponzi scheme. The indictment said Millennium promised investors a 16 percent return on certificates of deposit (CDs), but the banker and a California woman used their money to repay earlier investors and fund lavish lifestyles. The indictment alleges Millennium sold close to \$130 million in fake CDs between January 2004 and March 2009. The banker was ordered to pay more than \$75 million to investors after failing to respond to a civil suit over the alleged scheme. His assets were seized and auctioned off to help repay investors.

Source: http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/10992658/

15. April 17, U.S. Department of Justice – (Florida) Loan officer pleads guilty for role in mortgage fraud scheme that resulted in more than \$6.5 million in losses. A loan officer for a Florida mortgage company pleaded guilty April 16 in Florida to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud for his role in a mortgage fraud scheme. According to court documents, from about February 2006 through July 2008, the man was employed as a loan officer for Great Country Mortgage Bankers. In this role, he helped in the sales and financing of condominium units at two complexes in Florida — Dadeland Place and Pelican Cove on the Bay. The borrowers he assisted were unqualified to obtain mortgage loans due to insufficient income, high levels of debts, and outstanding collections. He admitted he conspired with others to create and submit false and fraudulent Federal Housing Administration mortgage loan applications and accompanying documents to a lender for the unqualified borrowers. He and others offered borrowers cash back after closing as an incentive for them to purchase the units. These payments were not disclosed properly during the loan application process. Court documents said the closing costs were paid on behalf of the borrowers by interstate wire. After the loans closed, the unqualified borrowers failed to meet their monthly mortgage obligations and defaulted on their loans. According to court documents, when the loans went into foreclosure, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which insured the loans, was required to take title to the units and pay the outstanding loan balances to the lenders. As of the date of the plea agreement, the actual loss related to the man's conduct that was paid by HUD was more than \$6.5 million.

Source:

http://7thspace.com/headlines/410374/usdoj_loan_officer_pleads_guilty_for_role_in_m ortgage fraud scheme that resulted in more than 65 million in losses.html

16. April 17, Courthouse News Service – (National; International) Hedge funds get a new shot at securities claims. An appellate court ruled Cayman Island hedge funds can amend claims that U.S. investors defrauded them of \$195 million in a classic "pump and dump" scheme, Courthouse News Service reported April 17. The Absolute Activist Value Master Fund and eight other hedge funds filed suit in 2009 over its dealings with Hunter World Markets on behalf of hundreds of investors worldwide and in the United States. The complaint alleges the defendants induced the hedge funds to buy U.S. penny stocks, and the defendants then artificially inflated the stock prices by repeatedly trading the stocks, often between the Cayman Island funds, generating substantial commissions for themselves and unlocking more stocks. Once they "had manipulated the prices of the U.S. penny stocks to the desired levels," they dumped "the shares they had obtained fraudulently to the funds at inflated prices," causing a \$195.9 million loss to the funds, according to the court's summary of the complaint. Source: http://www.courthousenews.com/2012/04/17/45706.htm

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Transportation Sector

17. *April 18*, *WWBT 12 Richmond* – (Virginia) **One lane of I-85 North still closed from overnight crash.** One lane of Interstate 85 northbound in Petersburg, Virginia,

remained closed about 9 hours after an early-morning accident April 18 snarled traffic through the morning rush hour. All lanes of I-85 were closed for about 4 hours after a tractor trailer and a box truck collided near the I-85, I-95 interchange, closing all lanes of I-85. State police said the crash occurred when the driver of the tractor trailer ran off the road and struck an overpass. The impact caused the trailer to cross over into the opposing lanes where a box truck collided with the debris. The driver of the tractor trailer suffered serious injuries and was taken by ambulance to a hospital. The driver of the box truck was also seriously injured and was flown to a medical center with life-threatening injuries.

Source: http://www.nbc12.com/story/17520786/tractor-trailer-crash-closes-down-i-85

18. April 17, Mankato Free Press – (Minnesota) Highway 14 deemed more deadly than **once thought.** Fatal crash data and range of possible improvements were part of a Highway 14 safety audit released by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) April 17. The data found that: Highway 14 between North Mankato and New Ulm, Minnesota, is even more deadly than previously reported; construction of a four-lane expressway along the most dangerous stretch is less expensive than anticipated; and state transportation officials are likely to opt for quicker, less expensive fixes than an expressway. While Highway 14 has been expanded to four lanes most of the way from Rochester to Mankato, a 2010 Mankato Free Press examination of accident statistics found the two-lane segment from North Mankato to New Ulm had a fatal crash rate nearly double the rate for rural two-lane highways statewide. Several additional deaths have occurred since then, driving the crash rate on that segment of highway to three times higher than comparable two-lane highways around Minnesota. A broader look — adding crashes that included serious but not fatal injuries — showed a crash rate 50 percent higher than average. MnDOT's Mankatobased District 7 has made several low-cost improvements to try to reduce accidents, including rumble strips on the center line between the eastbound and westbound lanes. The 6.5-mile segment between North Mankato and Nicollet was identified as particularly perilous, along with the intersections between Highway 14 and other state highways at Nicollet and New Ulm.

 $Source: \underline{http://mankatofreepress.com/local/x101451288/Highway-14-deemed-more-deadly-than-once-thought}$

19. April 17, Traverse City Record-Eagle – (Michigan) Plane diverted to Cherry Capital. Emergency crews poured into Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City, Michigan, April 17 to meet a Delta Airlines flight that reported a small explosion on board and smoke in the small jet's cabin. The plane diverted to Cherry Capital mainly to seek treatment for an injured passenger, airport officials said, after batteries for a passenger's medical oxygen unit exploded during the flight. The man was treated at the scene for a small second-degree burn, airport officials said. There was no damage to the aircraft, and it was scheduled to depart for its original Minneapolis destination almost 3 hours later.

Source: http://record-eagle.com/local/x101450906/Plane-diverted-to-Cherry-Capital

For more stories, see items 5 and 31

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. April 18, WFTS 29 Tampa – (Florida) Hundreds of pieces of mail stolen in U.S. Postal truck robbery. Authorities are investigating a burglary from a U.S. Postal Service (USPS) truck in Hillsborough County, Florida, that could impact many last minute tax filers. Two suspects stole hundreds of pieces of mail from the truck April 17. The postal employee locked his vehicle and was delivering mail when 2 men reportedly broke into the vehicle and stole 2 containers with 200 to 400 pieces of mail. USPS inspectors responded and said they would make notification to residents who may have had incoming mail from the containers that were taken. Source: http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_hillsborough/hundreds-of-pieces-of-mail-stolen-in-us-postal-truck-robbery

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Agriculture and Food Sector

- 21. April 18, Food Safety News (National; International) Sushi-linked Salmonella outbreak reaches 141 cases. A multi-state outbreak of Salmonella Bareilly infection has sickened at least 141 people, up from the 116 confirmed cases reported the week of April 9, while the related recall has expanded to include all frozen raw, yellowfin tuna product — called Nakaochi Scrape — distributed by Moon Marine USA Corp, Food Safety News reported April 18. Nakaochi Scrape is the backmeat of tuna that, when scraped off the bones, looks like ground tuna, and is used to make sushi and similar dishes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Moon Marine's frozen raw Nakaochi Scrape tuna, imported from a single processing plant in India, is the likely cause of the outbreak. In an update April 17, the CDC said the illnesses extend across 20 States and the District of Columbia. New York has reported 28 cases; Maryland and Wisconsin 14; Illinois 13; Massachusetts 9; New Jersey and Virginia 8; Connecticut, Georgia, and Pennsylvania 6; Rhode Island 5; Missouri and Texas 4; Louisiana and South Carolina 3; Alabama, District of Columbia, Mississippi, and North Carolina 2; and Arkansas and Florida 1. April 13, the Cupertino, California-based Moon Marine agreed to recall 58,828 pounds of its frozen raw yellowfin tuna product, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In an update April 17, the FDA said Moon Marine is voluntarily recalling all frozen raw yellowfin tuna product from India, labeled as Nakaochi Scrape AA or AAA. The product is not offered for sale to individual consumers but went to outlets that used the tuna to make sushi and other dishes to be sold in restaurants and grocery stores.
 - Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/04/sushi-linked-salmonella-outbreak-reaches-141-cases/
- 22. *April 18, Food Safety News* (Oregon) **Oregon raw milk tests positive for E. coli O157.** Raw milk from Foundation Farm near Wilsonville, Oregon, was identified as the link in an outbreak of E. coli infections that put four children in the hospital and may have sickened as many as 18 people. According to a news release April 17 from the

Oregon Department of Public Health, test results of samples taken from Foundation Farm's cows, manure, and surfaces at the farm, as well as raw milk from a farm customer, were positive for E. coli O157:H7. Of the four children hospitalized, all developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a type of kidney failure. All of the ill people drank milk from Foundation Farm, according to the state's public health department. Health officials in Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah counties, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture are investigating the cases. Foundation Farm, which distributes raw milk to 48 families, operates as a herdshare, a type of enterprise that allows people to buy shares in the herd or even an individual animal. Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/04/oregon-raw-milk-tests-positive-for-e-coli-o157h7/

23. April 18, Food Safety News – (National) Allergen alert: Peppers in lasagna packages. Nestle Prepared Foods Company is recalling about 16,890 pounds of Stouffer's lasagna frozen entrees that may instead contain stuffed peppers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced April 17. The stuffed peppers contain Worcestershire sauce made with anchovies, an allergen not listed on the package labels. The error was brought to the company's attention by two consumer complaints. According to the recall news release, the problem may have occurred when the lasagna packaging materials remained in the packaging machinery as the company began packaging stuffed pepper entrees. The recalled lasagna packages were produced December 15, 2011, and shipped to retail establishments east of the Mississippi River.

Source: http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/04/allergen-alert-stouffers-frozen-

lasagna/

24. *April 18, WANE 15 Fort Wayne* – (Indiana) **Another restaurant investigated for food-borne illness.** The Fort Wayne Allen County Department of Health believes norovirus is to blame for the illness suffered by patrons of El Azteca restaurant in Fort Wayne, Indiana, earlier in April. As of April 16, the health department had received 10 complaints involving 35 people who ate there the week of April 2. Investigators interviewed the people who got sick and visited the restaurant for an inspection and to determine if any workers were ill. In March, a similar incident took place at Cebolla's. The health department believes both instances were the result of an employee who was sick that reported for work anyway.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.wane.com/dpp/entertainment/food_and_dining/another-restaurant-investigated-for-food-borne-illness}$

25. April 18, KPRC 2 Houston – (Texas) Owner arrested in Late Nite Pie fire. The owner of Late Nite Pie in Houston was arrested and charged with arson, KPRC 2 Houston reported April 18. It took more than 100 firefighters to put out the massive flames that engulfed the midtown eatery February 8. The shift manager was arrested the week of April 9 for second-degree arson and admitted to the crime, police said. The shift manager told arson investigators the restaurant owner called him the morning of the fire and told him to burn the building down. The owner is being held without bond because she is on deferred adjudication for a 2010 felony forgery of a financial instrument case, Houston Fire Department officials said. Investigators said the fire was

started in four places by gasoline and lighter fluid. Surveillance video at a car dealership across the street caught the shift manager at the scene. Police said he was seen leaving the business as smoke was starting to billow from the building. Source: http://www.click2houston.com/news/Owner-arrested-in-Late-Nite-Pie-fire//1735978/10961210/-/raerv8/-/index.html

- 26. *April 17, Dickson Herald* (Tennessee) **Fire engulfs Blue Moon.** The former Blue Moon tavern burned down April 11, the Dickson Herald reported April 17. The Dickson County, Tennessee Rescue Squad (DCRS) labeled the damage as a total loss. One firefighter was burned on the shoulder but was treated and released. A rescue squad spokesperson said the fire probably started in the attic by stray embers from a wood stove. The building's current tenants built a fire in the stove, and the DCRS spokesperson said a crack in the flue lining most likely spit out the culprit ember. DCRS estimated the total losses around \$35,000. The tenants did not have insurance. Source: http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120417/DICKSON01/304170080/Fire-engulfs-Blue-Moon
- 27. April 17, Charleston Daily Mail (West Virginia) Grease fire causes extensive damage to S.C. restaurant. A South Charleston, West Virginia restaurant suffered extensive damage after a grease fire broke out in the kitchen. A cook at Smokey's Rib House turned his back on the stove April 17 only to turn back and find a grease fire had started, said the South Charleston fire chief. He said the cook tried to put the fire out and used three fire extinguishers, but the fire grew and got into the ceiling. The restaurant and upstairs apartments were evacuated. Firefighters reported heavy smoke in the first floor restaurant and light smoke in the apartments. Firefighters were able to knock down the fire quickly. Firefighters from each of the city's stations responded along with firefighters from Dunbar. One firefighter was injured while ventilating the building but is OK. The worst damage was in the kitchen. The apartments suffered only minor damage. The restaurant closed after the fire, but the owner plans to reopen. Source: http://www.dailymail.com/News/201204170283
- 28. April 16, Columbia Daily Tribune (Missouri) Six of 13 E. coli cases connected to one farm. Six of 13 confirmed cases of E. coli being investigated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) were linked to consumption of unpasteurized milk or raw dairy products from one farm. Officials confirmed April 16 the farm is in Howard County. The remaining seven people with confirmed E. coli infections did not report consuming raw dairy from that farm. Three cases of E. coli were reported in Boone County, where a child was hospitalized for 2 weeks. The child reportedly developed hemolytic uremic syndrome, a life-threatening condition that can result in permanent kidney damage. Other counties with reports of E. coli cases are Camden, Clark, Cooper, Howard, and Jackson. The DHSS began investigating an increase in E. coli cases in central Missouri in late March and early April. Source: http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/2012/apr/16/five-ecoli-cases-connected-one-farm/

For another story, see item 5

Water Sector

29. April 18, Albany Times Union – (New York) \$2.9M tab for repairs in

Bethlehem. Bethlehem, New York, will take on more than \$2.9 million in projects to fix infrastructure damaged by Tropical Storm Irene during the summer of 2011, the Albany Times Union reported April 18. The town's water and sewer systems were gravely affected by the storm, the public works commissioner said. The wastewater treatment plant typically handles about 4 million gallons per day, but during the storm the amount rose to 20 million gallons. The influx of water wore away the inner asphalt lining of many pipes, breached a dam that helps supply water to a plant, clogged it with debris, and eroded soil next to it. A Hudson River embankment was eroded and a bridge going over the Onesquethaw Creek was destroyed. The town also lost controls and electric framework for several water wells, the commissioner said. Most of the costs will be reimbursed by the state and federal government, and a no-interest loan from the state Environmental Facilities Corp.

Source: http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/3M-tab-for-repairs-in-Bethlehem-3489919.php

30. April 18, Canton Repository – (Ohio) Diesel fuel spill kills Fairhope sewer project. A \$2.2 million sewer project in the Fairhope area of Plain Township, Ohio, that was on the books since 2005 and started earlier in 2012 has been scrapped. The Stark County sanitary engineer told commissioners during an April 17 work session, workers discovered an underground diesel fuel spill in the path of the proposed sewer line, which was designed to eliminate the 36-year-old Fairhope pump station. The engineer said officials with Norfolk & Southern Railroad Co. and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had known about the decades-old spill but never alerted the county about the extent of the contamination until a few weeks ago. He said the site is not part of any EPA industrial cleanup program. He said the county detected some indication of contamination during its soil-boring tests and had included language in its project specifications for the contractor to address it. The spill makes installation of the pipe too costly because the county would have to remove the contaminated soil and water. Relocating the pipe also is not feasible because of the depth at which the pipe would have to be installed, the engineer added. A consultant will likely be hired to study the Fairhope pump station to determine whether the county should replace its aging components or build a new one.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.cantonrep.com/newsnow/x1549975175/Diesel-fuel-spill-kills-} \underline{Fairhope-sewer-project?zc_p=0}$

31. *April 17, Northbrook Star* – (Illinois) **Ten Northbrook water main breaks in 12-hour period.** A power failure April 15 in Northbrook, Illinois, caused an interruption in the main pump at the town's water plant. Power was quickly restored, but the outage caused the transmission of water to spike and 10 water mains throughout Northbrook's water system burst. Water was reportedly gushing through buckled pavement in several locations closing roads around the town. The violent storm, not the power company, was the trigger, the Northbrook village communications manager said. The village has

seen more main breaks than ever, since the new, bigger water tower went on line in 2011. Those breaks have been mostly blamed on variations of pressure driven by the size of the tank. Conversely, several Northbrook public works experts suspect the answer to the latest incidents lies in the water plant, with backup pumps or backup power generation, or both. Water service interruption April 16 was limited to the vicinity of the breaks, officials said.

Source: http://northbrook.suntimes.com/news/11944938-418/ten-northbrook-water-main-breaks-in-12-hour-period.html

- 32. *April 17*, *WTVW 7 Evansville* (Indiana) **Water main break leaves Indiana town dry.** More than 300 customers in Francisco, Indiana, were left without water April 17 after the town's main water line broke. East Gibson School Corporation cancelled classes and a boil advisory was issued until further notice. Despite water being restored by the evening, the break drained the town's water tower. Town officials advised residents to use water sparingly as the water pressure was rebuilding. Source: http://tristatehomepage.com/fulltext-news?nxd_id=505692
- 33. April 16, St. Joseph News-Press (Missouri) City approves \$2M for sewer projects. The St. Joseph, Missouri city council passed two bills April 16 for roughly \$2 million worth of sewer work. The largest will contract Snyder & Associates for the design of the Eastside Wastewater Improvement Project. The job aims to address wastewater concerns in the Candy Creek watershed. Snyder & Associates will find a site large enough to accommodate future wastewater needs, construct a new pump station, and extend gravity sewer lines to an area near Candy Creek. The city manager said the city will be able to better pump sewage to its treatment plant, while locating the new infrastructure in a way that would help transition to another plant well in the future. The second bill will construct a new pump station.

Source: http://www.newspressnow.com/localnews/30904271/detail.html

For more stories, see items 2 and 5

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

Nothing to report

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Government Facilities Sector

34. *April 18, MSNBC* – (Illinois) **City's finance chief accused of looting \$30 million; lifestyle included \$2.1 million motorhome.** The chief financial officer of Dixon, Illinois, was arrested and accused of embezzling \$30 million from the city. She was arrested April 17 at city hall, the Chicago Tribune reported, and she was charged with wire fraud. She was paid a salary of \$80,000 a year. She spent large sums to operate her 150-horse ranch, as well as \$340,000 on jewelry, and \$2.1 million on a luxury motor

home, the FBI alleges in its criminal complaint. An employee covering for the chief financial officer while she was away discovered an unusual bank account with multiple six-figure transactions. It was in the city's name but included "RSCDA" as a coaccount holder, and that turned out to be the suspect, the FBI said. Funds from the account had been withdrawn over time. Dixon has an annual budget of less than \$9 million a year and has had budget cuts.

Source: http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/04/18/11265755-citys-finance-chief-accused-of-looting-30-million-lifestyle-included-21-million-motorhome?lite

35. *April 17, KVLY 11 Fargo; KXJB 4 Fargo* – (North Dakota) **Fargo phone troubles fixed.** Telephone service was restored to city departments in Fargo, North Dakota, that were experiencing outages April 17. Throughout the day April 16 and the morning of April 17, the following departments did not have phone service: Public works, streets, mains & hydrants, forestry, solid waste, environmental health, and the sump pump program. The outage included the main numbers as well as individual extensions throughout each department.

Source: http://www.valleynewslive.com/story/17506412/fargo-phone-troubles

36. April 17, WEWS 5 Cleveland – (Ohio) Lorain City Center building evacuated after 'white haze' seen coming from ventilation system. The Lorain City Center Building was evacuated after firefighters said a "white haze" was reported coming from the ventilation system April 17. A Lorain, Ohio firefighter said the substance was identified as Freon, a chemical used in air conditioning systems. Investigators pinpointed the issue to a rooftop AC/heating unit. Everyone in the complex, including two private schools and the city center, had to evacuate. Students at the Lorain school were taken to Lorain Community Middle, where they were released to their parents. Students at the private schools were taken to a nearby hotel. The complex was reopened; however, school was canceled for the remainder of the day. Classes were scheduled to resume April 18.

Source: http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/oh_lorain/lorain-city-center-building-evacuated-after-white-haze-seen-coming-from-ventilation-system

37. April 17, New Providence-Berkeley Heights Patch – (New Jersey) FBI, police investigate 'non-specific threat' at Union County College. The FBI, Cranford Police, and Union County police investigated a "non-specific threat" received by Union County College April 17. It was the third evacuation of the campus in April. Bomb threats forced evacuations April 2 and April 11. All three of the calls were received at the same time of day and proved to be hoaxes. During the April 17 incident, the FBI was contacted as well as the local police, county police, bomb squad, and sheriff's department k-9 unit, to see if the three incidents were connected.

Source: http://newprovidence.patch.com/articles/fbi-local-law-enforcement-investigate-non-specific-threat-at-union-county-college

For more stories, see items 4, 8, and 32

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Emergency Services Sector

38. April 18, Rock Hill Herald Online – (South Carolina; North Carolina) York Sheriff: 2 employees receive reprimands after inmate release. Rock Hill Herald Online reported April 17 two employees of South Carolina's York County Sheriff's Office received written reprimands following an investigation into a convicted murderer's accidental release from the York County Jail. The disciplinary actions — along with the creation of several new policies to prevent similar incidents — followed the sheriff's month-long probe into the mistaken release of a convicted murderer from the York County Detention Center. The murderer was brought to York County from North Carolina February 8 for a hearing on a drug charge. February 27, he was sentenced for that drug charge to time already served in York County's jail. He was then accidentally released by detention center officers, who did not know he was supposed to return to North Carolina to finish his sentence of up to 14 years for shooting and killing a man. After a 4-day manhunt, authorities captured the murderer at his girlfriend's house. The investigation revealed a series of missed opportunities to identify the convicted murderer as a North Carolina inmate, poor communication, and a lack of specific procedures — written or verbal — for handling prisoners from other agencies who are brought to York County to resolve charges.

Source: http://www.heraldonline.com/2012/04/17/3902816/sheriff-two-employees-receive.html#storylink=omni_popular

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Information Technology Sector

- 39. April 18, Help Net Security (International) Malware disguised as new Instagram Android app. Instagram, the popular free photo sharing application for iOS devices, is now available for download for Android users on Google Play and Instagram's Web site. However, a rogue malicious version of the app is also being pushed to Russian Android users, offered from a Web page that mimics the legitimate one. Once the app is downloaded and run, it prompts users to send an SMS message to a premium rate number to "activate" the app, and then connects to specific sites, likely set to download other malware onto the users' device.
 - Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2076&utm
- 40. *April 18, H Security* (International) **Oracle patch day addresses 88 vulnerabilities.** Oracle released 88 security patches as part of its scheduled April Critical Patch Update. One of the patches affects a series of vulnerabilities in the Java JRockit VM with a Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) Base Score of 10.0 this is the highest possible level of vulnerability in the system. Oracle also closed holes with a CVSS score of 9.0 in Grid Engine and the Windows version of the database component Spatial (in non-Windows versions the vulnerability score of this flaw is 6.5). All other vulnerabilities have scores of 7.5 or lower. Of the 88 released updates, 6 patch holes directly in Oracle's Database Server and 6 others might affect it indirectly via Enterprise Manager Grid Control. Of the Grid Control vulnerabilities,

four can be exploited remotely without authentication. The Oracle Fusion middleware software received 11 advisories, some of which affect Java and therefore also JRockit. Additionally, 17 patches were released for Oracle FLEXCUBE, 11 affect PeopleSoft Enterprise, and 6 relate to MySQL. Oracle released several patches for Solaris as well. Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Oracle-patch-day-addresses-88-vulnerabilities-1541933.html

41. *April 18, H Security* – (International) **Google warns the operators of thousands of hacked web sites.** The head of Google's Webspam team announced that Google sent out a message to the webmasters of 20,000 sites informing them their sites may have been hacked. In the e-mail message, the firm warned operators that the affected sites appear to be being used to redirect visitors to a malicious site. Google asked the site administrators to check the files in their Web space for an eval(function(p,a,c,k,e,r) JavaScript code segment. The eval() function can be used to execute JavaScript character strings that may have previously been decrypted using an unpack feature. Google also warned of specially crafted .htaccess files. These may cause a file to be redirected only in certain circumstances, for example, when a visitor accesses the page via Google. Consequently, regular visitors to a site, such as the webmaster, will be unaware of the infection. The e-mail contains a link to Google's Webmaster Tools support page with instructions designed to help webmasters clean up their sites. Administrators were also being asked to close the security hole that was exploited to infect the site.

Source: http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Google-warns-the-operators-of-thousands-of-hacked-web-sites-1542374.html

42. April 18, ZDNet – (International) Gmail hit by massive outage: Up to 35 million affected. Google suffered a serious outage to its Gmail Web e-mail service April 17, which could have left up to 35 million users without access to their messages. The outage, which lasted for more than an hour, affected up to 10 percent of its global users, leaving them unable to access their personal e-mail accounts — and in some cases, their work e-mail. While many Gmail and Google Apps users in the United States were left without access, it appeared the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia remained mostly unscathed. Google initially said the outage affected less than 2 percent of the Gmail user base, with the estimated 5.3 million affected users "unable to access Google Mail." Later, however, Google hiked the figure and said "less than 10 percent" of its user base was left without e-mail. Reports suggest that only the Web interface was affected by the outage, while those using IMAP/POP connections in a third-party desktop client, or mobile users, could still access their accounts and e-mail.

 $Source: \underline{http://www.zdnet.com/blog/btl/gmail-hit-by-massive-outage-up-to-35-million-affected/74551}$

43. April 17, Help Net Security – (International) Active fake AV spam campaigns hit Twitter. Two distinct malicious spam campaigns are currently targeting Twitter users and taking them to compromised sites serving rogue antivirus (AV) and scareware software, GFI warned. The messages are short and are disseminated from bot and compromised accounts. Both contain links to a .tk domain. Following the link in the first message lands victims on a page (detectoptimizersupervision(dot)info) serving the

bogus Windows Antivirus 2012, which is currently detected by only 3 of the 42 AV solutions used by VirusTotal. The offered variant is changed every 3 to 6 hours. The second link redirects users to a Web site where the Blackhole exploit kit drops a first rogue AV then redirects to another page offering another AV named Windows Antivirus Patch. Twitter was notified of the campaigns.

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2075&utm

44. *April 17*, *V3.co.uk* – (International) **TapLogger Android Trojan cracks touchscreen passwords using handset movements.** A team of security researchers developed an Android-based trojan capable of discerning a user's screen lock code using the onboard accelerometers to detect small shifts that result from pressing the touchscreen. The trojan, nicknamed TapLogger, was shown to be able to crack passwords of four, six, and eight digits, comprising of the numbers between zero and nine. TapLogger was developed as a proof-of-concept and, according to the researchers, to highlight the need for smartphones to require security permissions before apps were able to access onboard sensor data, such as accelerometers.

Source: http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2168301/taplogger-android-trojan-cracks-touchscreen-passwords-handset-movements

- 45. April 17, Infosecurity (International) McAfee sheds light on the Darkmegi kernel rootkit. Darkmegi, malware that uses a kernel rootkit component to infect computers, has begun exploiting a flaw in Java to conduct drive-by attacks, according to McAfee Labs. Darkmegi was discovered several months ago when it exploited a musical instrument digital interface remote code executive vulnerability in Windows Media Player. The new drive-by attacks exploiting a Java runtime remote code execution flaw use the Gong Da Pack exploit kit, a McAfee researcher explained. Source: http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/25202/
- 46. *April 17, CNET News* (International) **Symantec: Flashback malware now down to 140K machines.** The number of machines estimated to be infected by the Flashback malware has dropped, but that number did not go down as fast as experts expected, according to an April 17 report by Symantec. The security firm lowered its estimate of machines that still have the malware to 140,000, which is down considerably from estimates of more than 600,000 less than 2 weeks ago. Even so, the firm said it was expecting a lower tally. The lowered expectations were due in part to Apple releasing two separate software tools to users the week of April 9 that detect and remove the malware. Additionally, ahead of those official tools, Symantec, and security firms F-Secure and Kaspersky released their own detection and removal software. Flashback is a form of malware designed to steal passwords and other information from users through their Web browser and other applications.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-57415472-83/symantec-flashback-malware-now-down-to-140k-machines/

For more stories, see items **10** and **13**

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: http://www.us-cert.gov

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: https://www.it-isac.org

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Communications Sector

See items <u>35</u>, <u>39</u>, <u>42</u>, and <u>44</u>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

47. April 18, Associated Press – (International) U.S. issues emergency warning that radical Islamist sect may bomb hotels in Nigeria capital. The United States warned its citizens April 18 that a radical Islamist sect may attack hotels frequented by foreigners in Nigeria's capital. The is the second time the United States advised such an assault is possible in the widening sectarian fight in the West African nation. The warning offered no specifics about the threat posed by the sect known as Boko Haram, only saying the Nigerian government was aware and taking precautions to stop such an assault. The United Kingdom also issued an advisory to its citizens noting the U.S. message.

Source:

 $\frac{http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/ffd5e54b61fc4190b8cf172e276ded13/A}{F--Nigeria-Violence}$

- 48. *April 17*, *WGCL 9 Atlanta* (Georgia) **Investigators: DeKalb County apartment fire caused by fire bomb.** Fire officials investigated an apartment fire April 17 in DeKalb County, Georgia, that affected 16 units, and determined the fire was started intentionally. The assistant DeKalb County fire chief said a fight broke out just before the fire started. Neighbors said they believed one of the women involved in the fight threw a Molotov cocktail into the apartment building. The assistant fire chief said investigators were looking into the claim and were possibly close to making an arrest. Source: http://www.cbsatlanta.com/story/17482951/families-displaced-after-decaturapartment-fire
- 49. *April 17, Rock Hill Herald* (South Carolina) **Club Odessey fire in Rock Hill ruled arson.** The April 16 fire that caused at least \$35,000 in damage to a Rock Hill, South Carolina nightclub was ruled an arson, fire investigators said April 17. The Odessey nightclub suffered extensive internal damage. Contents inside were also damaged. Investigators determined the fire started in an area of the mechanical room that housed the water heater and heating and air units. The investigation into the fire lasted more than 12 hours.

Source: http://www.wsoctv.com/news/news/local/club-odessey-fire-rock-hill-ruled-arson/nMbZ7/

50. April 17, Los Angeles Daily News – (California) Man, 43, arrested in San Pedro after homemade 'bombs' found. A man arrested in Los Angeles April 16 possessed homemade "seal bombs," which prompted police to evacuate his neighbors while a bomb squad confiscated the explosives. Police did not know what the man planned to do with the bombs, which were discovered when officers went to check on a female parolee at a condominium. The parolee was not home but her boyfriend was. Officers found an assault rifle in the home, along with three or four of the homemade explosives, which are used by fishermen underwater to scare seals and other animals away from their nets. Police officers evacuated some of the man's neighbors and cordoned off the area while a bomb squad responded to collect the explosives.

Source: http://www.dailynews.com/ci_20414385/explosive-devices-force-evacuation-san-pedro-neighborhood?source=most_emailed

For more stories, see items $\underline{6}$, $\underline{10}$, and $\underline{27}$

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

51. April 17, WTVR 6 Richmond – (Virginia) Arson suspected in Page County wildfire. The Virginia Department of Forestry said they suspect the 4,000-acre Shipwreck fire ignited in Page County the week of April 9 was started by one, or possibly more, arsonists. The announcement was made on their Web site April 16. They believe the same culprits may have been involved in lighting at least 20 other fires April 8 on First Mountain. "The lives and property of more than 250 residents and firefighters were directly threatened by these suspicious fires," said the director of resource protection for the Virginia Department of Forestry. Wildfire arson is a felony in Virginia, punishable with up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,500. Source: http://wtvr.com/2012/04/17/arson-suspected-in-page-county-wildfire/

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Dams Sector

52. April 18, Associated Press – (International) Danger from Three Gorges Dam may force out 100,000. Authorities may force 100,000 people to move away from China's Three Gorges Dam in the next 3 to 5 years due to the risk of disastrous landslides and bank collapses around the reservoir of the world's biggest hydroelectric facility, state media said April 18. The ministry of land resources said the number of landslides and other disasters increased 70 percent since the water level in the \$23 billion showcase project rose to its maximum in 2010. Some 1.4 million people already have been resettled as a result of the huge project on the Yangtze River. Authorities may move people to minimize the risk of casualties from such threats, a ministry official told China National Radio. He said 5,386 danger sites were being monitored and that work

was beginning on rockfalls and landslides at 335 locations around the lake. Fluctuations in water levels can trigger landslides and other problems, and the risks are accentuated by the density of the population, a recent report said. The government has acknowledged that filling the reservoir has increased the frequency of earthquakes, but the government denied it had anything to do with a powerful quake to the northwest in Sichuan May 12, 2008, that killed 87,000 people.

 $\frac{http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h_tTk1Mz94lKtgJIog3UT4xB}{K6aQ?docId=f550a6782c5d45da9c1398ff28da6548}$

53. April 18, Abingdon Journal – (Pennsylvania) Feds: Levee minimally acceptable. The Wyoming Valley Levee near Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, received a minimally acceptable federal inspection rating again, according to the Abingdon Journal April 18. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued the same rating in June 2011. The Corps decided after a November 2011 inspection of the 15-mile flood control system along the Susquehanna River it was keeping the same rating, the county flood protection authority executive director said during an April 17 meeting. The county must correct the deficiencies to avoid the possibility of a future unacceptable rating, which could jeopardize federal funding, a letter from the Corps said. "General deficiencies include vegetation removal, encroachments and the need to inspect conduits with in-line inspection means," the Corps wrote. Levee damage from September 2011 flooding also contributed to the rating, a Corps representative said. The federal government will spend millions of dollars repairing gates, channels, pumps, and other damage caused when rain from Tropical Depression Lee swelled the Susquehanna to a record 42.66 feet in September 2011, testing the levee's capacity. Inspectors said temporary repairs made during the flooding will keep the levee strong if the Susquehanna reaches flood stage before repairs.

 ${\bf Source: } \underline{http://theabingtonjournal.com/stories/Feds-Levee-minimally-acceptable, 140122}$

54. *April 17, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Rains push some rivers to near flood stage.** The Missouri River rose 9 feet at Washington, Missouri, after about 5 inches of rain fell over the weekend of April 14. The river was expected to crest April 20 at 16.4 feet, below the 20-foot flood stage. The Missouri River was also within a few feet of flood stage in Gasconade, Hermann, and St. Charles, though no significant problems were reported. The Bourbeuse River at Union was nearly 2 feet above flood stage April 17 but was dropping. Rain was mostly out of the forecast for much of the state until April 20.

Source: http://www.stltoday.com/news/state-and-regional/missouri/rains-push-some-rivers-to-near-flood-stage/article_fad0acda-bf0a-5b50-8f67-bc585f4b4d6a.html

For another story, see item 29

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